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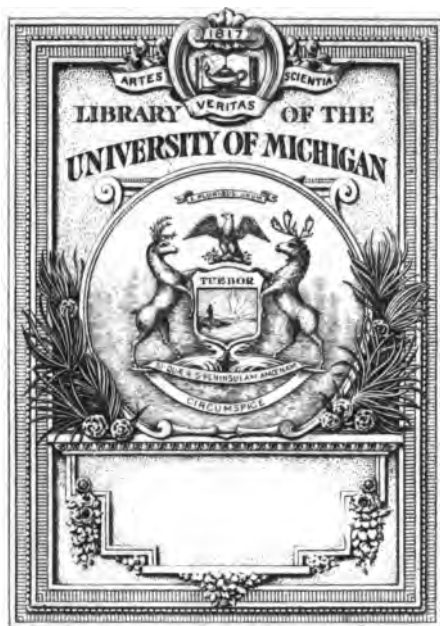
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Batterie a la Mode
CONSIDER'D:
OR THE
SUPERCILIOUS
DETRACTOR.

A
Joco-serious *Discourse*; shewing
the open *Impertinence* and *Degenerosity*
of Publishing *Private Pecques* and
Controversies to the World.

Occasionally Written
To a Young Gentleman, to shew the
Odium of this Ingentile *Honour*, and to
direct him in the best choice of
Pen and Books.

*Multi cum alijs maledicunt, sibi ipsis convictum
faciunt, Seneca.*

L O N D O N,
Printed by T. R. and N. T. for Henry Millson
at the Bible in Fleetstreet, MDCLXXIII.

—



THE
PUBLISHER
TO THE
READER.

Generous Reader,

FOR such I would
have thee to be,
to Answer the
true Design of these few
Sheets : First occasionally
writ by way of Advice to a
Young

To the Reader.
Young Gentleman abroad,
and I humbly conceive not
unseasonable to any that
make pretence to that Name
or Quality.

It teaches true Curtisie,
Charity, Civility, and the
Duty of Good Language
which we owe unto all Men,
which are indeed the Su-
preme Points of Generosity,
Policy, Christianity, as well
as of Moral Virtues, among
such as approve and practice
them.

You have here the Cha-
rafter

To the Reader.

rafter of a Detractor, accurately drawn forth and Detected through all his Protean Shapes and Disguises, with the true Imbellishments that should adorn a Bred and Worthy Man, whereby your self are left to judge which of these are most amiable, when you behold both their Pictures here set before you.

*These Lines were purposely set to pull up this Croking Mandrake (Detraction) from amongst us, and to root
out*

To the Reader.

*out this old overgrown Vice,
which is so much the Bane of
true Love, Friendship, and
happy Society, the corrup-
tion of Manners and good
Nature; odious in the Mean,
and ignoble in the Eminent,
and not to be countenanced
in any Common Wealth.*

*So that this Discourse
concurring with the present
general Vogue of every So-
ber and Judicious Gentle-
man: I am not to doubt of its
favourable reception among
them, and of others also by
their Example.*

S I R,

I Am e'ne grown *weary* of
longer Observing your
now *irksome* Commands,
to look after *New Books*
to send you; and therefore pray
excuse me, lest at length I seem
both to abuse your *Patiente*,
and that weak Judgment you
have chose to rely on: Finding
now the *frantick* Age so intoler-
ably pester'd with whimsi-
cal *Pasquils*, *Ralleries*, and *Ro-*
ta's, that in truth we have no-
thing else that's *Nozvil*; nor in-

B deed

2 **Baillerie a la Mode.**

deed is this *strictly* so , for it is no more than the Old mad Humor of the *Cobler of Gloucester new* Vampt.

And lest you may not perhaps have seen enough by the *Books* themselves I have (at your desire) sent you , I shall take a little pains to give you my Sense of the present sort of Writing , to shew you (as seasonable to your Young and Inconversant Years) the Ridiculousness, Incivility, and Inhumanity of it , in a few short and sober *Reflexions* on this Publick Piece of *Folly*, which does but indeed render us the mere Ludibrium and May-game

Raillete a la Mode. 3

game of Strangers, it is a fashion so illy introduced among us.

It is a Vicious sort of *Buffoonry*, that this mistaken Age is ready to cry up for a high *acquir'd Ornament* and Piece of *Refin'd Education*, while a *sober Judgment*, or *modest Innocence*, is as much mistook, and exploded for meer *Dulness* and *Ignorance*. He that can *abuse* another *handsomely*, is presently applauded for a *sbrewd Wit*, a *notable Man*, which indeed imports no better than an abusive K----- as a good *harmless honest Man* is but the better word for a *Fool*.

4 **Baillerie a la Mode.**

It is indeed, Sir, much my satisfaction, that your Retir'd inclination hath so happily settled you, (for your seasoning time) so commodiously remote from the Corrupt Converse of a great part of this Infectious Town : And I assure you, that I think it altogether my Duty to be as careful that no Contagious Subjects come intrudingly to your hands ; and would also advise you to be as cautious of receiving any, as many were of *London-Letters* the last Great Pestilence here amongst us.

Pray take this Advice. as
from a Friend that most un-
feign-

Raillerie a la Mode. 5

feignedly Loves and Tenders you ; and be sure ever to Choose your *Bookes* as you would your *Acquaintance*, (*i. e.*) let them be *few*, *choise*, and *reputable*.

You cannot well complain you *want* good *Company*, when you are not without *good Authors* to converse with ; and that too at the *best* Advantage, (as I take it) their *Writings* being for the most part much the *best* of them, compar'd with their *common* converse and personal society.

When you are *soberly* contemplative, your *Companion* is

2'

B 3

still

6 Raillerie a la Mode.

Still at hand to entertain your
Humor ; when your *thoughts*
incline you another way, then
have you *others* to divert you ;
and when you are *weary* of all,
at last you may take down *A-*
pollo's Lute , and *refresh* your
fancy with the most *pleasing*,
and not unprofitable, strains of
Poetry, English or others.

But truly to Buy or Read
these *Cudgel-playing* Books , is
but to make *Billings-gate* your
Diversi^on ; or to know the
best way how to give *bad* Lan-
guage : 'tis no better than
downright *Railing*, Frenchifi'd
into *Raillerie a la mode*.

Befide

Raillerie a la Mode. 7

Beside the smart *Itch* of *Writing* and *Replying* in this *New Canting Drolling Way*, made up of a few *fugitive Expressions*, I am sure he that gives himself up to this, must at once licentiously let go the Rains of his *Sobriety*, *Reason*, and *Religion*, to play at Have at All; or to Write in a *Refined sort of Frenzy*: For let his *Rodamantadoes* and *Bombast* be but unreachably Remote, or Far-fought, (as we commonly say) and it will want nothing to make it off; provided the Bookseller be but Wise.

To be Witty at this Rate,

8 Raillerie a la Mode.

is certainly very Poor, Pitiful, as well as Spightful, for any one to signalize himself by, because every one that will (*sans regard*) assume this abominable *abusive* Liberty, may as easily attain the accomplishment (if any will have it one) for as much as Mens Wits are naturally readier at this than any other Theme: Yet though the Ape be never so curiously trick'd up, he is still but the *same*: so let such Works be set out in never so quaint Language, yet what are they better then *unsavory* Breaths *perfum'd*? a more precious kind of *stink* in the Nostrils of either the Judicious or Good; and

Raillerie a la Mode. 9

and smell still too much of the *Dunghil* Declamations of the Schools ; studied Oppositions, though by some they may be said *smart* or *witty* , yet the order of their *Design*, or Matters wherewith they meddle , are very little Just or Conformable to the Precepts of good *Morality* , *Humanity* , or *Christianity*, in any degree ; and so base and degenerate a *Genius*, ought utterly to be abandon'd by the *sober* and *civil* sort of Mankind, and of all that profess and love *Virtue* , as dissenterious to the right Rules of true *Generosity* ; and as much beneath that *Grandeur* of a *Christians* high Profession, which
teaches

10 **Raillerie a la Mode.**

teaches Men not to *revile* and *slander* one another; and forewarns them from being *Busie-bodies* in other Mens matters.

Some Men, in the heat of Humor, while the lecherous Itch lasts, care not who they Traduce or Reflect upon, so they can but do it handsomely in huggermugger. *Kings* and *Privy Conncellors* cannot scape them. But could you peep through the Key-hole while he is in close Adultery (in his Study) with his Wanton Muse, and let but a Mouse, or the least Noise stir, how he obruptcy starts, and rumples up the Naughty Sheets in more
haste

Raillerie a la Mode. 11

haste and confusion than the Gallant shifts the Scene of his private Debaucheries upon a dangerous surprize! and when all is whist, is presently at it again.

When 'tis once delivered, 'tis presently pawn'd upon the Publick, like a Brat upon the Parish, the Incognito Parent standing by to observe how 'tis received; who railes, with the rest, against that, which shame and danger dares not let him own for fear of Penance, or a Whipping-post.

But 'twere with such highly ridiculous, to ask in St. Paul's
Lau-

12 **Raillerie a la Mode.**

Language, *What Profit have ye of those Things whereof ye are now Ashamed?*

And in vain may we expect common Civility from those that are not *afraid* or *ashamed* (at these dayes) irreverently to *scoff* at, and impiously to *detract* those most Princely Presidents of *Piety* in holy Writ, *David* and *Solomon*. The lewd and *Venerous* Person, (who makes his *Body* a *Burnt-offering* to his *inflamed Lust*) seeks to acquit and justify himself with this Plea, and to seem *wittily* wicked, asks you, *What did David ail when he complained of his Bones, and his Sore*
ran

Batterie a la Mode. 13

ran down in the Night? Give him grave and sober Advice, or but go about to stop him in his Career of *Folly*, and he presently pleads *Solomon*; and will purchase conviction at no *cheaper* a rate, than the dangerous high Price of *Experience*. He builds Sconces, and runs on Tavern-scores, and then Pleades that *Paul* Pawn'd his Cloak, &c.

At this *prophane* and paltry rate he seeks to purchase the repute of *witty*: he out-Huffs Hell, out-Hectors Beelzebub, and can dispence with the Name of *Atheist*, if he be not proud on't, and openly own and glory in it. This

14 **Raillerie à la Mode.**

This is one that with little *Fear*, and less *Wit*, will still be at his *Ludere cum Sacris*; that dare be impudent with Heaven, and sawcy with its most awful Majesty, to the Hearers astonishment, and his own shameful confusion; that, like an over-daring *Vaulter*, will forsooth be shewing *tricks* of Activity upon the very Brink and Precipice of *Hell*; and play at Hide and Seek with the *Devil* himself, till at last he catches him in his Clutches, as the Cat does her wanton Prey; and so spoiles his Sport on a suddain.

But let's leave him to the
Justice

Raillerie a la Mode. 15

Justice of that Power his *Folly*
thus inconsiderately provoked;
and Sir let me Advise you to
shun the Society of such, lest
you share in their Punishment,
and as you would escape the
infamous Censure you will
thereby fall under, always
taking it for sure, That you
shall go under the same Ac-
count and Character of the
Company you consort with,
since the World hath ever
look'd upon this Rule as in-
fallible.

And now Sir, passing this,
and to come nearer home to
my purpose, I shall briefly ob-
serve to you, how profuse and
heedless

16 **Raillerie a la Mode.**

heedless Men now a dayes are of their *own* and *others* Fame or Reputation , (too valuable to be thrown or made away in sport) while they thus publickly traduce, detract and asperse one another , as they do both in *word* and *writing* ; which latter I shall chiefly take notice of , and look upon as a Libel of the Devils Dictature, such Writers being set on by pure Idleness, the *Primum mobile* of all Mischief.

What is there in it else but a meer Itch of Spleen , edg'd on by the hope of building up a new Credit upon another Mans Weakness.

A

Baillerie a la Mode. 17

A Leap-Frog Fancy of Writing *Alternis Vicibus*, by fits and girds, as the Humor hits; or holds out to the hap-hazard of the adventurous Bookseller, but the adornment of Posts and Pissling-places, worthy of no further regard or notice, then the Printed Bills for Prizes at the Bear-Garden, being at best but a Trial of Skill another way, where both sides beat up and flourish as Victors; but set no sharper an edge either on their Wits or Weapons, than what will well serve to cut your Purse-strings, the whole aim of these cheating Challengers; which if the

C

over-

18 **Batterie a la Mode.**

overcurious Wiggins of the World will not believe, but will be still couzen'd *thus* with this *Hocus Pocus* Humor, let them, I say; but (my good Friend) I hope you will take my word, and be wiser.

Nor do I indeed much doubt or question your discretion, I understand you, and you your self better: And the best on't is, such *Books*, besides making the Authors *ridiculous*, do seldom *prejudice* the *Readers* more than with loss of *time*; nor so altogether, for sure (if he have any sense) he shall grow *wiser* by the *folly* represented

Raslerie a la Mode. 19

scnted him, as *Drunkards* sometimes *loathe themselves* by beholding it *soberly* in others.

Can we term it less than a *shameless inrivility* in such as would go about to oblige the World (whether it will or no) to take notice of their *Private Picques and Controversies*, which with a great deal of *pudder* they publicly expose to common Censure; nor can it be thought less in those that are the basic Pryers into these publick Impertinencies, the very *Reading* of which is a kind of unhappiness, but a

THE LIFE OF A LABORER.

CHAP. I. — THE LIFE OF A LABORER.

As long as this
life of taking
these Works in
we must never
forget that
the world is
not our home.
Blessed are the
peacemakers who
sow the seed of
peace in the
earth. For they
shall be called the
children of God.
And the peace
of God shall be
with them. Amen.

Rasslerie a la Mode. 21

and such are well set forth by
the Ingenious (and therefore
envy'd) Pen of the sam'd *Dry-*
den in this single Couplet of
his :

*Those that Advantage of each
slip do take,
Find but those Faults , which
they want Wit to make.*

Away then with this ill-na-
tur'd, disingenious, fault-find-
ing Humor , and be favorable
to the failings of others , as
ever you expect Men may in
kindness connive at your fail-
ings or imperfections ; when
they happen *Humanum est er-*

22 *Batterie a la Mode.*

rare, 'tis liable to all in some things, but especially to such as either write much, or variously often; and ought not with an over-rigid Censure to be too severely insisted on; for this doth but breed vain jangling; for as one *ill word* begets *another*, so (we see) doth one *abusive Book* another, till they even *puzzle*, as well as *weary* the whole World with reading the bare Titles of them.

One *Book* beares the Bell away one while, and then presently comes out *Reflections*, *Observations*, *Answers*, *Repliations*,

Batterie a la Mode. 23

cations, and *Exceptions* upon it, till the Press is so bepestered with them, that at last the Sheets grow more numerous than the long Books and Papers of a *Chancery Cause*, which are as pertinent and worthy of publication as the first, (for ought I know) and in time may both serve to one and the same use (after the *World* and the *Court* have dismiss'd the Controversie and Brangle) in a Grocers or a Chandlers Shop.

If any such Book have intruded into your Study, let them be turned your way for *Wranglers*, as unfit to keep

24 *Baillerie a la Mode.*

Company with the quiet and
civilier sort.

Or take my advice, and
change 'em away quickly while
the humor holds up, for others
more pleasant and profitable,
though (you lose well by 'em)
before the Gamesters have
cross'd the Cudgels,, and the
Ring-round world leaves min-
ding them: As some tough
and sturdy *Trojans*, after much
belabouring one another,
have long since done. --- *Laus*
Deo.

Our *Laureat* himself cannot
escape Calumny, (though I
must

Raillerie a la Mode. 25.

must confess he too much dar'd
it) that Reward of Wit (Sa-
cred to Poets) he finds could
not defend him from the blast
of a Criticks Breath. In spite of
Apollo's self they will attacke
him ; some thinking to be re-
puted Wits for only impudent-
ly daring to meddle with it.

Thus was he (for sooth)
taken to Task , Post-poned,
and there Lash'd on both sides
by the two, too unkind Uni-
versities; *Oxford* first taking
him up, while his Mother
Cambridge Chastised him se-
verely. In the first place, for
forgetting his old Grammer
Rules. So rigidly strict were
they

26 *Baillerie a la Mode.*

they to keep him to the scrupulous Precepts of their (long since exploded) Pedantry, besetting his fugitive fancy in the Poetick Transport, that he should not hereafter Sore beyond the near Ken of their slow and short sighted Genius; and next for abusing his Grandfire *Shakespeare*, and Father *Ben*, and being very sawcy with others of his Elders. But he is hush and done, say they, while they seem to hold a little Rod, made up of a few Stalks of disjunctive sense, they had spitefully spoil'd the beautifull Bed of his best Flowers off, & pick'd out to lash him with. And fain would they have confin'd his

Licentious

Raillerie à la Mode. 27

Licentious Muse (as they brand her) to her *Nunnery* : But they since may see how briskly she turns up her Vail, and with a modest scorn acquaints them in the words of her *Heroe*.
' That he hath neither concernment enough upon him
' to write any thing in his
' own Defence ; neither will
' he gratifie the Ambition of
' two wretched Scriblers, who
' desire nothing more than to
' be answered : Finding he
wanted not Friends, even among Strangers, who defended him more strongly, than his contemptible Pedant could
Attaque him.

By

28 *Baillerie a la Mode.*

By this becoming scorn you see how he prevents them from further undertaking against him, when (like a Morose or Frumpish oddFellow, bob'd in the Street with a by-word) had he turned again he would have had half the Town hooting at him. Thus he shews more Wit in his slight and silence, then possibly he ever would by his Pen when it performs best; though I truly believe that he is able to make those piece-meal Features, which his over curious Criticks examine so illy apart, to appear in their right place and position, no less then what himself says, as so many real

Beauties

Raillerie a la Mode. 29

Beauties in the Eye of such as
are able to judge and admire
the true perfections of a
Muse.

Sir, I speak this because I
know you have always had a
just value for Mr. *Dryden's*
Poems, as well as my self, and
I have believed you very dis-
cerning this way; and so he
cannot easily be brought low
in your esteem; you too well
perceiving the Design of his
Enemies without more words.

But to inform you further,
having, Sir, lately the leisure
of an Afternoon, I took oc-
casion to go among the Book-
sellers

30 **Baillerie a la Mode.**

sellers to enquire what else there was *newly* extant: I chopt upon an an Adventurous Author, who had took on him to write *Remarques on the Humour and Conversation of the Town*; which had not been long abroad, but it was seized upon by the sharp Claw of a Critick, and by him Stigmatized with the Name of *Remarques upon Remarques*. I was unwilling, and thought it vain to read one without the other, and so thought best to buy neither.

But the Bookseller would still impose further on me, and presents me with another new piece, called the *Rehearsal Transpos'd*,

Raillerie a la Mode. 31

Transpos'd, &c. a Title I understood not I confess: But seeing it a thing that had twice troubled the Press, and having the Booksellers word that it was worth reading, I took it. But having spent my time and Money upon it, all I could say was, I found my self very *Wittily* beguil'd of *both*: But (believe me) I think I might as well have read *Tom of Lincoln*, or *Bewis of Southampton*, for ought I edified by it, and would pay thanks to boot to any little Boy to change with me.

Yet truly I must confess,
With there was in it, but like a
Jewel

32 **Raillerie a la Mode.**

Jewel in the *Dunghill* of De-
traction, not worth the Gene-
rous and Ingenious Mans ra-
king for. But the *Crab-tree*
Stock of some Mens Humours
will bear no better Fruit ; yet
methinks they should not then
carry their *sower* Sentences to
the Press, they seem so little
serviceable or *seasonable*, and
cannot be counted *Solo-*
mons Apples. But some Mens
petulant Humours incline them
still to transpose the Proverb,
which says, 'Tis better to be at
the latter end of a Feast, than
the beginning of a Fray.

Now you must understand
Transposal is the little *a la Mode*
Word that at present obtains
and

Kaſſerie a la Mode. 33

and has of late made ſuch a deal of Gingle Gangle abroad, by the help of *Transpoſing*. The *Rehearsal Transpros'd* (Answer) the *Transproſer Rehearsed*, &c. But how extreamly pleaſant is it to obſerve how wittily the *Transproſer* turns *Transpoſer*, and finds himſelf ſport at Tick Tack for half a Dozen Pages together, and all with two poor Letters [J. and O.] I warrant the Man has a moſt extraordinary fancy at Compoſing Anagrams and Acroſticks, and is excellent at Wire-drawing Wit, that can ſo pritily play with two Letters ſo long, and they happened to be lucky ones for his turn.

D Every

34 *Baillerie a la Mode.*

Every one will have a bob at *Bayes*, though alas he is not likely he get a wreath of it, for the Wit he lays out upon it. And now the yelp is up, 'stoo him *Bayes* Cries one; Hollo. *Bayes* Cries a second, *Whoop Bayes* a third, enough to worry one out of his *Wits*. I cannot tell what better to compare it to, than like the clapping and scolding of a ragged-canting Crew of *Bil-linggate* Rhetoricians, or those of *Rosemary Lane*, where if any will once but give the *Cue* of one Word provocative, he shall presently hear a full Peal of most exquisite Harmony indeed. You shall

Raillerie a la Mode. 35

shall not meet with a Term so mild as *Gregory Father Gray Beard*; they could have furnished him with a Title ten times more Taking, (*ex Tempore*) and possibly more intelligible too. But hang't, let it pass, it comes all to one purpose.

Having thus given you some hints of this hateful Humour, I would fain draw to a close with my Discourse, there remains only a few *Cautiōary Remarques* to direct you in your choice of Men. And what your own Judgment will represent to you, will render the rest odious enough to your generous mind, without any further reflections.

D 2

If

36 *Raillerie a la Mode.*

If we consider the mischief as well as degenerosity of this *Destructive* Humour among Men, either in *Words* or *Writing*, we would certainly shun it with greatest detestation.

As then you have any respect for your own Peace and Quiet, endeavour still to keep your self unconcerned from impertinent listening after, or prying into private or publick Reports of this sort; for that you must either betray, or inevitably bring in question your Friendship if you conceal it; or if perhaps on the other side you impart it, you
but

Raillerie a la Mode. 37

but kindle Coals of contenti-
on, and beget private grudges
and heart-burnings, and make
your self in a mannner bound
either to accuse or vindicate,
and had therefore much better
to be deaf and dumb in such
concerns in both Offices.

Be sure therefore to shew
no kind of Countenance to
such as can find no other means
to screw themselves in to your
opinion and favour, than by
this treacherous way of tradu-
cing others to you.

38 **Baillerie a la Mode.**

· Nor would I have you over apt to listen to, or trust him that fain would be tickling you with adulatory praise of your parts and qualities ; especially if the Party be a stranger to you, and one that you never any ways had obliged before ; for 'tis common with some sort of men to put on a fawning familiarity upon the first Acquaintance they have with any one, to make lavish offers of Friendship and service to you. Sir , (I say) take good heed of such a one, least there be (as 'tis odds if there be not) some Sting of Design at the end of their Tail.

Besides

Baillerie a la Mode. 39

Besides, what can sound more harsh or untunable in the Ear of the generous, wise or modest, than to hear an Encomiastick Harangue or Elogy of Praise personally addrest to his Face. Musick fit for none but Fools to caper at ; alas ! they must be but silly *Trouts*, that will be so tickled to death. The saying of *Tully* ought to be every true Gentleman's ; *Nolo esse auditor, ne videar Adulator*. Now (for ought you know) this great Praise may be but *Ironice prodere Famam*; the Man that speaks so & so, may possibly mean nothing less, but the quite contrary ; but be sure he that hath any

40 Raillerie a la Mode.

Sense, will not be imposed on at this rate ; but will soon find it out , and know how to retort it in the like Language.

- But on the other side, where this kind of Flattery on both sides takes, as said , sadly, really, and indeed , then cannot there be more pleasant Diversion , than to see two Asses bray out Applauses to one another. This is *Mulus mulum scabit* , or *Kee me, and I le kee thee*, as the old Proverb speaks. But certain it is, none can be flattered of another, till he first flatter himself.

One may observe a sort of
Na-

Raillerie a la Mode. 41

Natural Rhetorick , even among the Common Professors of the Art of Railling ; they have their Figures, Graces, and Ornaments peculiar to their kind of Speech , though they do not distinguish or use them Grammatically, by the Names of *Sarcasmus*, *Asteismus*, *Miserismus*, *Antiphrasis*, *Charientismus*, or *Ironia*, yet have they their Dry *Bobs*, their Broad *Flouts*, Bitter *Taunts*, their Fleering *Frumps*, and Privy *Nips*. Besides the use of their admirable Art of Canting, they have a cunning way of Jeering, accusing others by justifying themselves, and saying, I never did--- or by asking the
the

42 *Raillerie a la Mode.*

the Question general, Who did so and so? Why who did you Whore cries 'tother? did I? and so the Game begins; but by this evasive way of Abuse they will be sure to keep wide off the Law's Tenter-hooks.

Thus you see there is none can come out Master of this Art that hath not been brought up at *Billingsgate*, for only there are found the best Proficients of this kind, which while some of our Authors are but the bashful Imitators; alas, see how far they fall short of the true force and efficacy that is to be found in the

Raillerie a la Mode. 43
the perfection of this Faculty.

But I have deviated a while from my first discourse, giving you the fore-going Reflections, I now come again to consider the end of Writing, and what is most commendable. The principal end of Reading is I am sure to enrich the Mind; and doubtless that is the best Work where the Graces and the Muses meet. But where every Man thinks what he lists, speaks what he thinks, writes what he speaks, and prints what he writes, from such kind of scribbling, carried on by a frantick Figgary, I do not well apprehend what Advantage

44 Raillerie a la Mode.

vantage can in the least accrue one way or other to the Readers, either to the enriching their Discourse, or advancing their Knowledg.

Nor is it easie to conceive the drift or design of this odd fantastick way of writing without the help of a skilful *Interpreter*, they having more need of Notes and a Comment, than the History of *Don Quixot*, without which you shall be no more able to apprehend our Author, than capable to carry off the Intregue of one of our Now-adayes Comedies, so hard it is to force the Poetick Fire out of their

Baillerie a la Mode. 45

their flinty Inventions. The Treasury of Wit being of late so close lock'd up in the Wild Meanders of our present Muses, that he that has not the Court-key of the newest forge, shall hardly be the better for't.

I cannot tell how this way of Writing comes to be now the Mode that so much obtains, I mean of Detraſting and Traducing Persons; for I do not remember the Ingenious Author of the Book called, *Reflections upon the Eloquence of the Bar and Pulpit*, so much as once mentions, much less commends this manner of writing or speaking, as
either

46 Raillerie a la Mode.

either modish, modest, or decent ; but gives this Gentle Lash to the Users of it , That nothing of that kind is entertained with *effect* , when too *personally* address : and that though with *civility* we may glance at , yet may we not without *rudeness* and ill manners , too openly stare upon the faults or imperfections of any Person.

Detraction is an old Vice, although it be but newly come into request among us again : It was the sin of *Haman* against *Mordecai*, of *Saul* against *David*, of *Jezabel* against *Naboth*; and there are whole Psalms of
of

Raillerie a la Mode. 47
of Execration for this Sin.

I find an old Poet of ours
(*Gower*) Declaiming against
this Vice in this manner.

*Invidiæ pars est Detractio
pessima, pestem
Quæ magis infamem flatibus
oris agit.*

*Lingua venenato sermone re-
percutit aures,
Sic ut in alterius scandala fa-
ma volat.*

*Morsibus a tergo quos inficit
ipsa fideles
Vulneris ignoti sepe salute ca-
rent.*

*Sed generosus Amor linguam
conservat, ut ejus*

Verbum

48 Baillerie a la Mode.

*Verbum quod loquitur nulla
sinistra gerat.*

This honest old Author sets
out this Vice in this sort, by
way of Admonition.

Ever kepe thou thy tonge stille,
Thou myzt the more have of thy wille,
If that thy self art envious,
Thou shalt not be gracious,
As thou parauentur sholdest be elles,
Ther wol no man vnk of the welles,
Whiche as he wote is payson yune;
And ofte such as men begynne
Towards other, suche as they synde,
That set hem ofte fer behynoe,
When that they wenen be byfoze
By good lone, and thou therfore
Betware and leue thy wycked speche,
Whereof hath fallen ofte wretche
To many a man byfoze this time;
For who so wol his hands lyme,
They must be the more unclene,
For many a mote shall be sene,
That wol not elles cleue there,
And that shold ruryr wise man sere,
For

Raillerie a la Mode. 49

**For who so wal another blame,
He se kyth ofte his owne shame,
Whitch else might be right styll, &c.**

Now should I go about to
Paint a *DetraCTOR* forth in his
proper Colours, or to Draw
every Feature of Deformity in
his Face, I fear, in the first
place, I should find my Ink
not Black enough to Paint so
Foul a *Monster*; nor could a
Man have Courage enough to
Draw the Devil, without the
Security of some Good Guar-
dian by his side.

But I'll venture on Him;
for, as they say, if we can but
draw Bloud of *Witches*, their
Envious Intents cease: so if
E the

50 **Railleur à la Mode.**
the Nib of my Pen be but
sharp-pointed enough to prick
to the quick, I need not fear
the worst he then can do to
me; neither need others, after
once they are forewarn'd.

THE

Rassette à la Mode. 51

THE
CHARACTER
OF A
Detractor.

A *Detractor* is a kind of *Camelion*, that lives upon the worst sort of Air; at first bred up and suckled with sour Sustenance from the lank and flaggy Dugs of his lean and meager Mother *Envy*, he afterwards feeds on Fame; his words are worse than *Poyson* of *Asps*, and are a kind of *Witchcraft*, so that the *Sufferer* may justly be said to be *under an*

E 2 Evil

52 **Raillerie a la Mode.**

Evil Tongue. Like one of the *wayward* Sisters, he *spightfully* picks the foul and poysonous *Weeds* out of the fairest *Gardens* of Mens *fruitful* Labors, wherewith to work his wicked *Sorceries* ; with *venomous* Breath endeavouring to *blast* the best and fragrant *Flowers* of Mens *Writings* , that they may *wither* in the *minds* and *memories* of the World.

He is a sort of *turbulent* spirited *Furioso* , continually *foaming* out his *frothy* Passion on all sides , like *malicious* old Woman, ever *muttering* , extremely *incensed* ; he can find none to vouchsafe to vex him,
till

Rafflerie a la Mode 53
till out of pure *spight* he is
fain, at length, to be himself
both *Satyr, Answer, and Reply.*
'Twould *fright* you, or *him*
either, to behold his own *an-*
gry Face during the *pang* of
Composure.

He Writes on as Fish-women Rail, without Cessation,
or 'Premeditation; without
Patience to Hear, or Time to
Deliberate: and Answers, hit
or miss, without Perusal, let-
ting all the while his Passion
boyl over, without ever skim-
ing of the filthy Foam that al-
wayes arises from the intem-
perate Heat of in-kindled Fu-
ry.

54 **Rallierie a la Mode:**

Erasmus seems to have very well understood the Nature of this Malady amongst Men , and mentions it as if himself had once had some symptoms of it, when he sayes, *Multi mei similes hoc morbo laborant , ut cum scribere nesciant, tamen ascribendo temperare non possunt.* Many (saith he) are very sick of my Disease , and though they can do nothing worthy of the Publick, yet they must be publishing their (*bellish*) Humors , fouler than the Ink they write with ; and this makes the World abound so with Books. The Teemings of every Term , which deserves a much severer Tax upon every Sheet

Raillerie a la Mode. 55

Sheet then there is imposed upon the Law, that so it might at once breed less Trouble, and more Profit to the Press it Plagues.

A Detractor

Is one who knowes how to shoot dead your *Repute*, and yet you never hear the *Report*; he hath several sorts of Poysons, and but one way to apply 'em, that's commonly at the Ear: He sometimes *whispers* like one that discourses through the *Speaking-Trumpet*, you shall hear the *sound*, but not know *who* utters it, nor whence it proceeds. He is Traytor to Truth, a Lying Oracle, or the Old Devil of

46. **Bastille à la Mode.**

Delphos, to Abuse the Credulous, Delude the Ignorant, Confirm the Suspicious, and Inflame the Jealous.

He is a kind of *Monster* among *Men*, and hath a *double Face*, a *double Heart*, and a *cloven Tongue*; a *Viper* that will venture to Bite, though he break his venomous *Teeth* out in the attempt. A *Proteus* in Conversation upon every turn; a *subtle Angler* of *Secrets*, he pretends *private* impartments of *others* to hook out *yours*; he first finds out (if he can) your inward sentiments of *others*, and then tickles you either with *falacious*

Raillerie à la Mode. 57

our Encomiums, or detra^ctive
Untruths of them, according
as he finds out, or can infu-
nuate into your humor. I like
well the Caution in the Satyr.

*Fingere qui non visa potest,
commissa tacere*

*Qui nequit, hic niger est, hunc
tu, (Romane) coveto.*

Who feigns what was not,
and discloaks a Soul,
Beware him (Noble Roman)
he is foul.

58 *Raillerie a la Mode.*

A

Worthy Man DESCRIBED.

A Right *Bred*, or *Worthy*
Man, will *scorn* to be so
base as to *Flatter*, and *hates* to
be so *Curish* as to *Bite* any
any one; so that even his *Re-*
proofs seem *kind* and *generous*,
and his *Wounds* do not want
their *Balsam*. You may read
his *Temper* in his *Face*; he
fleers not at a *Reproachful*
Jeer, but shews his dislike in
his looks; he stands aloofe
when Men *Whisper*, and is
no greedy *Listner* after *Priva-*
cies;

Rasserie a la Mode. 59

cies ; his Tongue never betrays his Heart , and Report can find no Eccho in him. When you Lodge in him a Secret , your necessary Caution locks it safe up, and your self keeps the Key. It is his Grief to know a Vice of his Friends , and his Charity he shews in concealing it ; he never over-Praises nor Undervalues any man, for his Prudence instructs , that the one stirs up Envy, and the other procures contempt. He that can be brought so low as Fear or Flattery , must not presume once to own the Forfeited name of Gentleman or Christian.

First,

60 *Baillerie a la Mode.*

First he cannot lay claim
to the Moral Virtues of Ju-
stice, Truth, or Civility, so that
he is neither fit to be a Friend
or an Umpire in any Affair.
Fear and a little menacing
makes him Faulty to Both;
nor is he to be Trusted with
another Mans Reputation, who
has not Courage to defend his
own, if questioned. A good
Poet says,

*Defend the Truth, for that
who will not die
A Coward is, and gives him-
self the lye,*

He that hath a Cowardly
fear within him can never be

Batterie a la Mode. 61

a true Christian, but like the
After - penitent Apostle, he
will be apt in time of Trial to
give his own Heart the Lye,
and Deny the Lord that *bought*
him. He cannot hold the
Truth till it wax *hot* in his
Hand, or ever endure a Mar-
tyrdom for it : But like the
wretched *Italian*, panting un-
der the hasty Threats of a sur-
prizing Enemy, (in hopes to
save his Life) Belch'd out (as
bidden) Horrid *Blasphemies*,
to gratifie the Will of his in-
sulting Enemy ; till in the
midst of them he Stabs the
Naked Wretch, and then
Brag'd how he had *doubled* his
Revenge, Destroying *Soul* and
Body

62 *Raillerie à la Mode.*

Body at *one* Blow. But this only by way of illustration to clear the last Assertions of the Degenerate *Effects* of such *sure* Symptomes of Cowardice and Unchristianity.

I have not yet done with our *DetraCTOR*, I must take him a little further to Task before I give him over; and ask of him, What *Amends* he can make to the Party, whose Fame and Repute he hath Publickly Traduc'd and Vilified.

For doubtless if we respect Human Society, there cannot be a more *pernicious* Ill attending it; 'tis a giving up a Mans
Name

Baillerie a la Mode. 63

Name to *perpetual* Infamy and Reproach ; an *irreparable* Wrong , towards which the *best* Amends falls *short* of Satisfaction. A *Blot* never to be *raz'd* out , but by *writing* the whole *fair* over again in way of *Recantation* (*Publick Confession* being ever due to *Publick Injuries*) and when that's done too, to *Retract* does not make *full* Compensation, since he that does it cannot be *sure* that he who saw his *first*, shall read his *last* also.

So that he who offends in this kind , does it not only to his *Lives* , but the *Worlds* end in a *Book* , which cannot *Repent* ; and therefore Reputation

64 *Raillerie a la Mode.*

tion once lost is past Retrieve.
An ingenious Poet Cautions
well to this purpose :

*Thy Credit wary keep , 'tis
quickly gone ;
Being got by many Actions,
lost by one.*

I have read a *Fable* , how
that *Reputation* , *Love* , and
Death , made a Covenant to
travel o're the *World* , but each
was to take a several Way.
When they were ready to de-
part, mutual Inquiry was made
how they might find one ano-
ther again. *Death* said , they
should be sure to hear of him
in *Battels* , *Hospitals* , and in all
Parts

Raillerie a la Mode. 65

Parts where either *Famine* or *Diseases* are rife. *Love* bade them hearken after him among the *Children* of *Cottagers*, whose *Parents* had left them *nothing*, at *Marriages*, at *Feasts*, and amongst the *professed* *Servants of Virtue*, the only *Bond* to tye him fast. They long expected a *Direction* from *Reputation*, who stood mute; being urg'd to assign them *Places* where they might find him, he sullenly answered, his *Nature* was such, that if he *departed* from any *Man*, he never came to him more. The *Moral* is excellent to our Subject,

To Display a Mans *Malice*

F in

66 *Baillerie a la Mode.*

in *Writing*, is no less than *deliberate* Wickedness, a kinde of *Civil Murther* *prepar'd*; *chew'd* Bullets that wrangle where they enter; the *Plague* in Paper, which he that would *shun*, let him take heed how he comes between the *Infectious* Sheets.

The Publick Breath of *Calumny*, like *contagious Air*, is of late become too *Epidemical*, though the *Infection* will not soon taint the *sound* Constitution of a *solid* Judgment. The *humming* Noise of *Fame*, and the *harsh* grating of *Detraction*, are now the *ungrateful* sounds that so much Disturb this *mutinous Town*.
The

Raillerie a la Mode. 67

The *Obscure* envy the *Eminent* ; as Boys cry , Whip Coach-man , when they cannot Ride as well as others. Ingenuity sure never before knew so many Spightful Spider-Pates, which weave Book-leaves of Antick Cobweb-wit, to Catch the Roving-headed Butter-flies of this Age in.

Excuse me Sir, if I have enlarged my Letter too much on this Subject ; and do not think I have done it meerly to please my own *itch* of *Writing* ; for I could never *flatter* my self into any Opinion of my *own* Parts, (if I have any :) And be assured , that above all things I

68 *Raillerie a la Mode.*

abhor , and most spleefully
laugh at the Publick-spirited
Fop , that is Ambitious of the
Name of a *Reformer* ; for I
have seen so much the *serious*
Folly of that too, that I think
it much more *fashionable* to be
of the *Laughing* than *Weeping*
side of the *World* ; which alas,
the more you strive to *amend* ,
still the *worse* you make it.

Thus we see there is no
Curb can keep Men within
the *Modest Bounds* of *Civi-*
lity , albeit *Those* (whose care
it is) be never so Cautious to
prevent the Inconveniency of
putting forth *particular* *Refle-*
ctions to open Censure, under
the

Baillerie a la Mode 69
the last of every *Licentious* Pen
and Tongue.

But the Press cannot escape
without its *Errata's*, and By-
blows, (as we count such
Books as we have Treated of to
be) the obscure Parents some-
times, like *counterfeit* Gypsies,
colouring their *Brats* over with
a *Foreign* Imprimatur, with a
Cant to the *Typis*, as a Guide
to the *Gibderish* it is fraught
withal.

And now Sir, if you please,
you may communicate this to
such of your Ingenious Ac-
quaintance as are Book-buy-
ers, that they (as well as you)

F 3 may

70 Baillerie a la Mode.

may be made more sensible of the present Spawn of our Fantastick Fry of Town-Wits, and rest satisfied without buying any more till this Freaque be worn out of Fashion, as I heartily wish it were. And so, without more ado, (save only to wish a Return of these Men well to their Wits again) I bid you for this time Farewell.

FINIS.

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